

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Kindly replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract.

A parking brake pedal structure is disclosed, wherein a parking brake pedal comprises a pedal arm and a pedal pad mounted at an end portion of the pedal arm. The pedal arm includes an arm body and an arm end portion for mounting the pedal pad thereon. The arm end portion includes a pad mounting upper portion for mounting the pedal pad thereon and a pad mounting side portion for mounting the pedal pad side portion of the pedal pad thereon. The pad mounting side portion is provided with a ~~swelling~~ protruding portion which laterally protrudes to the same height as the thickness of the pedal pad side portion. The ~~swelling~~ protruding portion advantageously prevents the driver's foot from being caught by the pedal pad side portion of the pedal pad. Therefore, it hardly occurs that the driver's foot is caught by the pedal pad.

Kindly replace the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4 with the following amended paragraph:

Briefly, according to the present invention, there is provided a pedal structure for a motor vehicle. The pedal structure comprises a pedal arm pivoted when stepped on for transmitting the stepping-on force and a pedal pad mounted on an end upper portion of the pedal arm for being stepped on by a driver's foot. The pedal pad includes a pedal pad upper portion and a pedal pad side portion. The pedal arm includes an arm body and an arm end portion for mounting the pedal pad. The arm end portion is provided with the pad mounting upper portion for mounting the pedal pad thereon and a pad mounting side portion for mounting the pedal pad side portion

thereon. A ~~swelling~~ protruding portion is further provided at the pad mounting side portion under the end portion of the pedal pad side portion and laterally protruding to have the same height or almost the same height as the thickness of the pedal pad side portion.

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 9, with the following amended paragraph

With this configuration, the arm end portion is provided with the pad mounting upper portion for mounting the pedal pad and the pad mounting side portion for mounting the pedal pad side portion thereon. And, the ~~swelling~~ protruding portion is provided at the pad mounting side portion, and the pad mounting side portion and the ~~swelling~~ protruding portion are made to have almost the same height in the lateral direction. Therefore, a step which would otherwise be formed between the pad mounting side portion of the pedal arm and the pedal pad side portion is removed by the presence of the ~~swelling~~ protruding portion thereat. Thus, even when the driver's foot is brought into touch with the pedal pad in stepping on the parking brake pedal, it can be obviated that the driver's foot is caught by the pedal pad side portion and hence, it does not happen that pedal pad comes off the pedal arm.

Kindly replace the paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5 with the following amended paragraph:

In another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a parking brake pedal structure in a parking foot brake device for a motor vehicle. The parking brake pedal comprises a pedal arm pivoted when stepped on for transmitting the stepping

force to the parking brake device and a pedal pad mounted on the end upper portion of the pedal arm for being stepped on by a driver's foot. The pedal arm includes an arm end portion for mounting the pedal pad thereon and an arm body connected to the parking brake device. The arm end portion is provided with a pad mounting upper portion for mounting the pedal pad thereon and a pad mounting side portion for mounting the pedal pad side portion thereon. A ~~swelling~~ protruding portion is further provided at the pad mounting side portion under the end portion of the pedal pad side portion and laterally protruding to have the same height as the thickness of the pedal pad side portion.

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 5, with the following amended paragraph:

With this configuration in another aspect, the ~~swelling~~ protruding portion removes a step which would otherwise be formed between the pad mounting side portion of the pedal arm and the pedal pad side portion. Thus, when the driver's foot is brought into touch with the pedal arm in stepping on the parking brake pedal, it can be obviated that the driver's foot is caught by the pedal pad side portion and hence, it does not happen that pedal pad comes off the pedal arm.

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 5, with the following amended paragraph:

As shown in Figure 1, the parking foot brake device 1 for motor vehicles is used in parking a motor vehicle (e.g., automobile). When a parking brake pedal 10 is stepped on and displaced in a braking direction D to work the parking brake, the

parking brake is brought into a locking state to keep the motor vehicle being braked, so that the parking brake device 1 can ~~make~~ prevent the motor vehicle ~~not to move from moving~~ during the parking. Usually, the parking brake device 1 is arranged over the floor ahead of the driver's seat of the motor vehicle in juxtaposed relation with a brake pedal (not shown). The structure of the parking brake device 1 is such that in parking the motor vehicle, the parking brake pedal 10 is stepped on to work the parking brake and to bring the same into a locking state, while in driving the motor vehicle, the parking brake pedal 10 is returned to a non-braking position to release the parking braking from the locking state.

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, with the following amended paragraph:

Further, a pad mounting side portion 23 is formed at the side surface of almost the U-shape cross-section and extends laterally with respect to the pad mounting upper portion in the brake force applying direction D. The pad mounting side portion 23 is provided with an engaging hole 23b for securing a pedal pad side portion 32 of the pedal pad 30 and is further provided with a swelling protruding portion 23a. The swelling protruding portion 23a is press-formed at the same time as the pedal arm 20 is press-formed. That is, the forming of the swelling protruding portion 23a and the forming of the pedal arm 20 are done through the same press-forming process, whereby the portions 22, 23 and 23a of the pedal arm 20 comprise respective portions of the same piece of material. Thus, it is unnecessary to attach, by welding or the like, another member for constituting the swelling protruding portion 23a to the pedal arm 20. Therefore, the pedal arm 20 does not increase in

weight, and the cost for processing the pedal arm 20 is minimized, so that the provision of the ~~swelling~~ protruding portion 23a hardly gives rise to an increase in cost.

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 14, with the following amended paragraph:

As shown in Figure 5, the pedal pad 30 comprises a pedal pad upper portion 31 mounted on the pad mounting upper portion 22 and a pedal pad side portion 32 mounted on the pad mounting side portion 23 and take an almost L-shape in cross-section, as shown in Figure 3. The pedal pad side portion 32 is formed with a mounting projection 32b, and the pedal pad upper portion 31 is formed with a pad groove 33 and a pad cover portion 34 at its circumferential portion. Like the pad mounting upper portion 22, the pedal pad upper portion 31 takes a semicylindrical shape with the center portion ~~swelling~~ protruding out slightly.

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, with the following amended paragraph:

In this particular embodiment, as understood from the foregoing description, the ~~swelling~~ protruding portion 23a is provided at the pad mounting side portion 23 of the arm end portion 21 and laterally protrudes almost to the same height h (i.e., to almost the same lateral distance) as the thickness T of the pedal pad side portion 32 of the pedal pad 30. Accordingly, a step which would otherwise be formed between the pad mounting side portion 23 of the pedal arm 20 and the pedal pad side portion 32 is eliminated or removed by the presence of the ~~swelling~~ protruding portion 23a

thereat. Thus, when the driver's foot is brought into touch with the pedal arm 20 in stepping on the parking brake pedal 10, it can be obviated that the driver's foot is caught by the pedal pad side portion 32 and hence, it hardly takes place that pedal pad 30 comes off the pedal arm 20.

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 20, with the following amended paragraph:

In stead of forming at the arm end portion 21 the ~~swelling~~ protruding portion 23a which ~~swells~~ protrudes out as shown in Figure 3, there may be provided a cut raised portion 23c which is cut and raised too the same height H as the thickness T of the pedal pad side portion 32, as shown in Figure 6. The cutting and raising process is makes it easier to increase the height H of the cut raised portion 23c and is easier to machine.

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 8, with the following amended paragraph:

That is, in the foregoing embodiment as shown in Figures 2 and 3 for example, the arm end portion 21 is provided with the pad mounting upper portion 22 for mounting the pedal pad 30 and the pad mounting side portion 23 for mounting the pedal pad side portion 32 thereon. And, the ~~swelling~~ protruding portion 23a is provided at the pad mounting side portion 23, and the pedal pad side portion 32 and the ~~swelling~~ protruding portion 23a are made to have almost the same height in the lateral direction. Therefore, a step which would otherwise be formed between the pad mounting side portion 23 of the pedal arm 20 and the pedal pad side portion 32 is removed by the presence of the ~~swelling~~ protruding portion 23a thereat. Thus, when the driver's foot is brought into touch with the pedal arm 20 in stepping on the parking brake pedal 10, it can be obviated that the driver's foot is caught by the pedal pad side portion 32 and hence, it hardly occurs that pedal pad 30 comes off the pedal arm 20.

Kindly replace the paragraph bridging pages 12 and 13, with the following amended paragraph:

In the foregoing embodiment as shown in Figures 2 and 3 for example, the arm end portion 21 of the parking brake pedal 10 is provided at the pad mounting side portion 23 with the swelling protruding portion 23a, which is made to have almost the same height H in the lateral direction as the thickness T of the pedal pad side portion 32. Thus, there is present the swelling protruding portion 23a for removing the step which would otherwise be formed between the pad mounting side portion 23 of the pedal arm 20 and the pedal pad 30. Therefore, when the driver's foot is brought into touch with the pedal arm 20 in stepping the parking brake pedal 10, it hardly takes place that the driver's foot is caught by the pedal pad side portion 32, and hence, that pedal pad 30 comes off the pedal arm 20.

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 10, with the following amended paragraph:

In the foregoing embodiment as shown in Figure 3 for example, since the pedal arm 20 is formed by press-forming, the machining of the U-letter shape cross-section can be done quickly and easily, so that a substantial reduction in cost can be attained in manufacturing the pedal arm 20. Further, since the swelling portion 23a can be formed by press-forming at the same time as the forming of the U-letter shape cross-section, it is unnecessary to attach another member constituting the swelling protruding portion 23a, to the pedal arm 20 by welding, and there is no increase in weight. In addition to these, the cost for machining the swelling protruding portion 23a can be minimized, and therefore, the provision of the swelling protruding portion 23a does not result in a substantial increase in cost.

Kindly replace the paragraph bridging pages 13 and 14, with the following amended paragraph:

In the foregoing second embodiment as shown in Figure 6 for example, since the ~~swelling~~ protruding portion 23a is made as the cut raised portion 23c which is formed by cutting and raising a part of the pad mounting side portion 23 of the pedal arm 20, it is unnecessary to attach another plate member by welding or the like, so that there is no increase in weight. Further, since the cut and raised portion 23c (i.e., corresponding to the swelling portion 23a) is formed by press-forming at the same time as the machining of the U-letter shape cross-section, the machining cost therefor can be minimized, and the provision of the cut raised portion 23c does not result in a substantial increase in cost.